

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: S. Hata Building

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: 318 Kamehameha Avenue

not for publication:     

city/town: Hilo

vicinity:     

state: HI county: Hawaii code: 001 zip code: 96720

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:   0  

Name of related multiple property listing:   NA

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  X  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

*Keith W. Alene*

*July 10, 1991*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Deputy SHPO, Department of Land and Natural Resources*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register *Antonieta Alene* *8/27/91*  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register  
 removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*for*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic:	<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub:	<u>department store</u> <u>business</u>
Current :	<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub:	<u>department store</u> <u>business</u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Commercial Style

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Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation concrete roof concrete  
walls concrete other metal  
wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.  X  See continuation sheet.

The S. Hata Building is a two-story, commercial building of reinforced concrete construction. The 109' x 60' building sits on downtown Hilo's primary street, Kamehameha Avenue, and anchors one end of that street. The facade slightly curves at both ends to define the original contour of the road.

The facade is composed of five bays, with the center bay being evident only on the first floor where a single door provides access to the stairway leading to the second floor. Pilasters with inverted chevron capitals, reminiscent of cast iron storefront architectural detailing, demarcate the bays, and with the exception of those flanking the centered entry, extend two stories in height.

The first floor is devoted to retail use. The store fronts are of large plate glass and feature inset, double door entries. The aluminum windows and doorways date since World War II, but the transoms above are original as are the masonry bottom panels.

The major architectural elements of the second floor are the fourteen round arched windows. The end bays have three windows each and the three middle bays contain eight. The windows are connected via a drip stone motif in relief and inscribed discs are situated between the arches. The windows have concrete sills and are 1 x 1 double hung sash.

Between the first and second stories is a metal awning, whose metal roof has been replaced in more recent years. However, the wrought iron brackets of curvilinear design are still intact and visible from the sidewalk below, imbuing the building with a strong rhythmic element at the pedestrian level.

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The building terminates with a frieze in which the name "S. Hata Building" appears. Above the frieze is a modest belt course somewhat reminiscent of a cornice and atop that a parapet in which the date 1912 appears. The parapet above the two end bays is pediment shaped.

Wooden steps lead to the second floor of the building, which contains ten offices. The offices are located on either side of a central, lateral running hallway. The floor is of wood. A four foot high tongue and groove wainscot embellishes the hallway. The remainder of the wall surface and the ceiling are canec, which more than likely dates from the 1930s. The shop spaces downstairs also employ this wall finish.

There have been no additions or major alterations to the building other than the windows and doors on the first story.

The rear of the Hata Building is connected to a two story wood framed commercial structure, built in 1919. This second building faces onto Punahoa Street. The ground floor is divided into a series of fourteen irregularly spaced bays of doors and plate glass store windows. Each door has a large plate glass panel set in a wood frame with a wood panel at the bottom third of the door. The second story has thirteen double hung windows placed in a random rhythm across the facade. Creating a horizontal division between the first and second stories is a corrugated metal shed roof awning which extends the length of the facade. The entire elevation is sheathed with horizontal simple drop siding. The building is capped by a cornice supported by alternating large and small brackets. The cornice hides the shed roof of this addition which slopes down to the joining with the Hata Building. There is a small area between the main Hata Building and its back addition. The area is roofed and has three skylights to provide interior illumination. The joining area serves as a link with the main Hata Building and as storage space for the shops facing Punahoa Street. Located above the link is a wood, two story residential structure, also built in 1919.

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : NA

Areas of Significance: architecture  
community development  
commerce  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1912-1941 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates : 1912 1919 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): Sadanusoke Hata  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: NA \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: William C. Furer  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

The S. Hata Building is architecturally significant as a good example of an early twentieth century commercial structure in Hilo. In addition it is significant for its associations with the development of downtown Hilo and the Hata Store.

The building's design is typical of its period and function with regards to its scale, its layout, use of second story round arched windows, and restrained embellishment. Numerous buildings of this sort stood in Honolulu, but very few were erected in the neighbor islands, where wood was the favored material. However, major cities such as Hilo, Lihue, and Wailuku did include certain major masonry commercial buildings, especially along their main streets. As such a masonry commercial building in a neighbor island city was an imposing edifice and a substantial image of the progressiveness of the community.

In Hilo other masonry commercial buildings of note include the Masonic Hall (1907), the Hackfeld Building (1910), Volcano Block (1913) and Von Hamm Young Building (1912), as well as a host of others built in the late 1920s and early 1930s, such as the Kress Store, the Bishop Bank Building, the Young Building, the Furneaux Estate Building, the Foresters, and the Mutual Telephone Company.

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The S. Hata Building is especially significant as it is one of the earliest masonry buildings to be erected in Hilo, and it was built by a Japanese rather than a westerner. At the time the Hata Building was constructed, the only other masonry buildings in the town were the Hackfeld Building, owned by one of the two companies with large sugar interests on the Hilo-Hamakua side of the island of Hawaii, and the Masonic Hall. (Both of which the Honolulu Advertiser found pretentious and noted that these improvements, "show like a wart on a nose", Advertiser, March 20, 1910) Other masonry buildings included the Peacock Building (1902) (no longer extant) and the Federal Building. That the S. Hata Building was built in the Oriental section of town is important as an indication of the upward mobility of this segment of the population, and the newspaper heralded, "Hilo will soon be able to rejoice in an additional concrete block." (Hilo Tribune, January 2, 1912).

The S. Hata Building is also significant for its associations with Sadanouke Hata. Mr. Hata was recognized as Hilo's oldest and foremost Japanese merchant. His was one of the few Hawaii island businesses to establish branches from Hilo, rather than Honolulu, maintaining two branches in Honolulu and three in Japan. In 1893, Mr. Hata was an agent for Odo Shoten (store) in Honolulu, and was responsible for taking orders on the Hamakua coast. This work gave him the inspiration to start his own business at Hilo in circa 1896. He sold silks, kimonos, and oriental souvenirs as well as Japanese provisions. The business prospered and in 1912 it expanded. His original building was retained as a wholesale outlet and he erected his new \$25,000 structure on wetlands fronting on Front Street (later Kamehameha Avenue). A condition of the United States government's selling this property was that Mr. Hata erect a concrete building within a year's time. During World War II the Hata Building was seized and later auctioned by the United States government.

Sadanosuke Hata's second daughter, Mrs. Kasujiro Kagawa, purchased the building at that time.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Hawaii Herald April 20, 1911, January 4, 1912  
Hilo Tribune Herald May 16, 1926 January 2, 1912  
Original blueprints

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property: less than 1

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>05</u>	<u>281170</u>	<u>2182610</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This nomination includes the S. Hata Building and the land it stands on, which is described by Tax Map Key 2-3-08:16.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This is the historical boundary for the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kirk Soares

Organization: Hilo Main Street Date: November 29, 1988

Street & Number: 252 Kamehameha Avenue Telephone: 935-8850

City or Town: Hilo State: HI ZIP: 96720